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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1898.

INERTIA AS A POSSIBLE MANIFESTATION OF
THE ETHER.

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc. intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

IN the *American Journal of Science* for October I described certain experiments on the compression of coagulated jelly, to which I am inclined to attach some importance, since they establish a case of well defined persistent motion of material bodies in a highly viscous (solid) medium, as the sheer result of the breakdown of stress in the medium in question, and quite without the agency of any force 'acting at a distance.' I ask the reader's indulgence if I recall the main features of these experiments here, for the remarks which I propose to make in the present communication are to be based directly upon them and would lose their point in a mere reference.

Given a thread of firmly coagulated (10%–20%) gelatine solution *b*, Fig. 1, 10–20 cm. long, between terminal threads of mercury *a* and *c* in a fine bore ($\frac{1}{8}$ mm.) strong capillary tube (not shown in figure). The upper thread is fixed; the lower is movable and transmits the pressure of a strong force pump. As pressure increases, it will be found that the originally convex meniscus in Fig. 1 is gradually more and more sharpened conoidally upward, until the unstable figure 2 is reached, after which, as in 3, a small projectile, usually round and often less than $\frac{1}{16}$ mm. in diameter, is shot upward 10–20 cm., against gravity and against